

DECLINED WITH THANKS

By E. J. BURKE

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"Miss Cecil Travers—Mr. Philip Saunders."

Some benevolent individual introduced them at the Pen and Pencil club. Saunders afterward spoke of him as "the hand of fate." But then he was under the sway of the blind god and so irresponsible for either his remarks or his eyesight.

It was certainly a case of love at first sight—on the part of Saunders. When he looked down into the dark eyes raised so frankly to his own, he gave up his heart unconditionally. In all his thirty-five years nothing had sent the blood rushing so riotously through his veins as the firm, warm clasp of her hand.

But he was a quiet, self-controlled fellow, with a composure born of years of struggle with the uncertain literary ladder. So he did not hold the little hand a second longer than politeness demanded. There was no trace of eagerness in his manner as he sat down on the divan beside her and began to talk as few men and fewer women had heard him talk—brilliantly, with flashes of wit and sarcasm relieving the underlying earnestness of thought.

Cecil Travers was quite unconscious of the metamorphosis she was producing. She only thought that this big, blond man was not nearly as unapproachable as he looked. He was really charming. And, what was the more remarkable, he did not talk about himself.

The girl found this an unusual experience. As reader for one of the magazines and writer of short stories, she had met many men of many minds. "Yet," as she said pathetically to herself, "the minds always seem to turn inward. How can they write about the world around them when they are so absorbed in self?"

Her wonder grew when she discovered that he, too, was an author. She remembered now seeing his name signed to several clever sketches. He had never tried any with the Symposium. As he talked the desire to read some of his stories became overmastering.

"Why don't you send something to me at the Symposium?" she asked at length finally.

He flushed up to the roots of his hair as he said hesitatingly, "I have been busy about something else, but I will—some time."

It was his first trace of awkwardness. Cecil could not know that the "something else" was the novel which was the work of many months and which was even then seeking a publisher. Not even to her dared he trust himself to speak of this child of his hopes. If the world gave it a welcome, ah, then! His thoughts were busy weaving a beautiful day dream, and its central figure was this dark-eyed girl who was almost a stranger to him.

He awoke to realities with a start. Miss Travers, puzzled at his silence, had risen and was holding out her hand in goodbye.

"You will come to see me some time, will you not, Mr. Saunders?" she asked with the frank smile that was her especial charm. "I have enjoyed my talk with you so very much that I would like to repeat it. I am always at home on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

Her tone was so cordial that he blushed and stammered over his thanks. He called himself a fool a minute afterward when he found himself standing stupidly staring at the doorway through which she had disappeared. But that did not prevent his going home in a strangely excited and exhilarated mood. The glamour of his day dream seemed still around him. And she, the lady of his dream—she loved her.

He whispered it to himself as he strode across the park, half fearful that the flickering lamps and the swaying branches might guess his secret, but in the silence of his room he said it boldly and the confident ring of the words seemed to echo the mad beating of his heart.

It was inevitable that the next Thursday night should find him in the parlor of Miss Travers' flat. It was equally inevitable that he should bend all his energies to hide his love from the smiling eyes of this girl, who treated him with an air of bon camaraderie fatal to sentiment.

It is doubtful whether even encouragement would have wrung the secret from his lips. The first joy of loving was past and in its place had come a flood of self-distrust, of self-deprecation. To his tortured mind an unbridgeable gulf of training and traditions seemed to sweep between them. She had been the petted child of rich parents, on whom had been lavished the gifts of a college education and years of foreign travel. This attempt at independence and self support had been treated as her latest whim and humored accordingly. He had scrambled from a common school education into the pitfalls that beset the path of a newspaper reporter. Every upward step had been bought at the price of hard work. It was but a short time since the problem of meeting his board had been an all important one.

That was the first of many calls, but the succeeding visits, while they strengthened his love, gave no courage to his declaration.

At last in his desperation a plan occurred upon him by which he might win her love and yet spare her the embarrassment of a refusal. She had asked him to write for the Symposium.

love and its hopelessness and offering two sequels for the choice of the reader. In the one the lover should boldly set aside the barriers of position and woo and win his ladylove. In the other he should patiently bow to the inevitable and devote his life to the uncertain happiness of literary success.

He bent himself feverishly to the task. For several weeks he had not dared to trust himself to call upon her. She would understand the reason why when she read the story he addressed with a trembling hand.

A day went by, another, a week. Saunders could not work; he could not sleep. He haunted the park and the streets where he had sometimes met her, hopeful yet fearful of meeting her again and reading in her face his answer.

At length, when ten days had passed and suspense had become almost unendurable, the postman left a bulky envelope in his letter box.

It was his story, and as he unfolded it a typewritten slip fluttered to the floor. He picked it up mechanically. It was the usual rejection slip, curt and businesslike, without an added line to soften the blow.

It might have been minutes, it might have been hours, that he sat there staring at the scrap of paper. Then, with a groan, he buried his face in his arms, as if to shut out the words. His castle in Spain had fallen down about his ears, and he sat among the ruins.

The sun was setting when he rose brusquely and went out into the air to walk and walk in the hope that physical weariness might stifle his suffering. The coolness of night brought a dogged courage to blot out the past, with its day dreams, and turn to the future.

But it was weary work. The end of the week found him so worn and haggard his friends declared he was overworked and advised rest and change. "Your novel is making such a success you can afford to do it," they urged. He only smiled bitterly and shook his head. It seemed such cruel mockery to think that the success of his cherished novel should bring him no happiness.

He was listlessly sorting his mail one morning when his eye fell upon a tiny blue envelope which had been hidden by the others. His heart seemed to leap into his throat, for he recognized the hand. He read:

Dear Mr. Saunders—It is so long since I have seen you that I am pining for one of our chats. To be sure, I have just come back from my three weeks' vacation, but then you had not been to see me for ever so long before that. Is there anything the matter? Come up tonight and perhaps I can explain. Yours sincerely, CECIL TRAVERS.

Again Mr. Saunders sat staring at a piece of paper, but this time it was the shock of sudden joy. She had never seen his story. It had been turned down by her deputy reader.

He made most of the explanations that evening, but Miss Travers did not seem to mind.

How "Oliver Twist" Was Created.

Even the highest genius must sometimes borrow, or at least appropriate, the hints of others. Few, however, could make so fine use of a hint as Dickens could.

The true story of the origin of "Oliver Twist" is not generally known. It is this: After the amazing success of the "Pickwick Papers" Dickens was thinking of following it up by a story of London life, with which he was more familiar than with English country life.

Just about that time he happened to visit the studio of George Cruikshank and was shown some drawings the latter had made illustrating the career of a London thief.

There was a sketch of Fagin's den, with the Artful Dodger and Master Charley Bates, pictures of Bill Sikes and his dog and Nancy Sikes and lastly Fagin in the condemned cell. Dickens was much struck by the power of these character sketches, and the result was that he changed the whole plot of "Oliver Twist." Instead of taking him through spiritless adventures in the country he introduced him into the thieves' den in London, showed up their life of sin, but brought his hero through pure and unadorned.

Thus it will be seen that George Cruikshank, not Charles Dickens, was the originator of the leading characters that appear in "Oliver Twist."

Nature and Art in Greek Statues.

Archaeologists have observed that in Greek statues the male eye is strongly arched, while the female eye has rather a flattened surface, and, referring to accounts by the older anatomists who have affirmed such a difference to exist, they have seen in this a fresh proof of the exact observation of nature by the ancient Greeks. The rule is not without exceptions, for the cornea in the Zeus of Oricoll has quite a flat form. Herr Greef recently set himself to inquire whether such a sexual difference actually exists, and from individual measurement of the radius of the cornea in the horizontal meridian he gets an average of 7.83 millimeters for men and 7.82 millimeters for women (Donders gives 7.858 and 7.799), so the difference is so small as to be imperceptible to the naked eye. Measurement of other dimensions gave but minute differences also. The author concludes that the Greeks from artistic motives did not in this case follow nature.—London Nature.

Knew of One.

"Another fellow and I have agreed to leave a certain matter to you. Is there such a thing as a stream without any banks?"

"Oh, yes; there's the Gulf Stream."

"Er—no there is! Thanks!"

But as he clumped heavily out, with his jaw hanging down, he left the impression in the mind of the answers to correspondents man that he had lost a chance.

BEFORE THE FLOP

One of the Record's Many Articles of Last Fall on University Trouble.

The following article is taken verbatim from the September 20th issue of the DeLand Record, which is now devoting nearly all its space every week to a vilification of the same president and trustees so highly commended in September. An intelligent public is capable of judging the "reasons" for this flop. The heading and article follow, in full:

UNANIMOUSLY VINDICATED.

The University Rumors Found to Be False in Every Particular.

"At the meeting of the Board of Trustees here Thursday evening and all day Friday, the difficulty at the University was patiently and exhaustively investigated and resulted in a complete vindication of Dr. Forbes. There were twenty out of twenty-three of the Trustees actually present, and the Board has in its number some of the most distinguished men in this and other states.

The decision of the Board is received with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction by the people of DeLand, and the whole matter will be finally and forever dropped.

While the rumors were current the confidence and the high esteem held, on the part of the DeLand people, in Dr. Forbes were never shaken; they loyally and unflinchingly stood by a man whose life had always been ideal and an admirable example for a person holding the high position that he does. This result of the investigation of the rumors, as unanimous, as absolute, as positive as it was, was no surprise to the people of DeLand. With almost an all night's session and all the next day until 6 o'clock without intermission, this eminent body of men who came here, at the request of Dr. Forbes, to investigate these rumors, went into every detail, made a most searching investigation, and found not one scintilla of evidence to even base a charge upon, and this verdict, the verdict of some of the most eminent men of this country, is accepted as absolute and final.

The DeLand people heartily congratulate Dr. Forbes on this unanimous vindication and endorsement, for as long as the rumors continued there went with them a reflection upon himself, upon the position he occupies in the University, DeLand and her people.

The groundless rumors have done the University no harm as our people feared would be the result. More students will be here next week than were ever here at any previous opening and the University year beyond doubt is assured the best by long odds it has ever had.

The members of the trustees present at the meeting last week were: John B. Stetson, president, Philadelphia; S. B. Wright, secretary, DeLand; Hon. H. A. DeLand, Fairport, N. Y.; Rev. David Moore, D. D., Geneva, N. Y.; Rev. R. S. McArthur, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Rev. W. N. Chaddock, D. D., LaGrange, Fla.; E. O. Painter, DeLand, Fla.; James S. Turner, Levyville, Fla.; H. B. Stevens, DeLand, Fla.; Rev. Thomas J. Sparkman, DeLand, Fla.; Theodore C. Search, Philadelphia; J. T. Clake, DeLand, Fla.; Rev. William H. Stewart, DeLand; Governor William S. Jennings, Tallahassee, Fla.; Frank J. Longdon, DeLand; Mayor D. U. Fletcher, Jacksonville, Fla.; B. F. Camp, White Springs, Fla.; J. B. Law, DeLand; E. B. Solomon, Dayton, Ohio.

The only trustees represented by proxy were E. B. Moody, Lake City; Arthur G. Hamlin, DeLand and Byron E. Huntley, Batavia, N. Y.

FROM AN ALUMNUS.

"The Three Years I Spent There Have Meant All the World to Me."

P. Marvin Pope, a graduate of Stetson University, now pursuing a course at the Northwestern Reserve University, Cleveland, O., writes a DeLand friend as follows about old Stetson:

Stetson, dear old Stetson! I shall remember her as long as I live. The three years I spent there have meant all the world to me, and I would not give up their memory for principalities nor powers. It is possible that you have not seen her in her best—she has been so torn and strained by internal strife all the year—but don't give her up. She will come out all right in the end. Institutions, like people, have their periods of doubt and despondency. Though shadows may have gathered round it, and dark storm-clouds may be raging about it, up, beyond the human ken, its head is crowned with sunshine. Its purposes are as lofty and noble as ever; and it will not be long before the clouds and shadows will be scattered and driven away. The house of trustees is divided against itself and has pulled the cloak of doubt and suspicion around the University; but Dr. Forbes, the head and soul of the institution, I believe, is innocent and is inspired with as noble aims as ever, and in the end must win. Some have thought that I did not return this year because of the scandal, and that by staying away I lent my moral influence to support the belief of Dr. Forbes' guilt. Such is not the case. I would

have returned if Dr. Forbes could have made it to my advantage. But since I was going to have to pay about as much there as here, I thought it better for me to come here where I could enjoy many other advantages.

SUITS AGAINST STETSON.

Further Time Granted in Which to File Declaration.

Jacksonville Times-Union, Saturday.

A motion asking for further time to file a declaration in the suit of Forbes vs. Stetson was filed yesterday in the United States Court by the attorney for the plaintiff.

As yet no declaration in the case has been submitted, and considerable time has been consumed in preparing the document on account of the complicated character of the case. It is probable that the declaration will be one of the most complete and carefully prepared that has been submitted in a long time.

IMMENSE SUM SUE FOR.

In the amount of damages claimed the case will hold the record in this court. There are four claims against John B. Stetson, alleging slander, and in each indictment the amount of damages claimed is \$250,000, making a million dollars in all.

MRS. STETSON A DEFENDANT.

Mrs. Stetson is made defendant along with John B. Stetson, the indictment being filed by Dr. Forbes and Mrs. Lena Mathes. It is probable that the case will not go to court until late in the spring. Meanwhile the lawyers on either side are lining up for a big legal contest.

A SOCIAL EXPEDITION.

Dr. Tolman to Study Economic Conditions in Europe.

MANY CITIES TO BE VISITED.

Director of Institute of Social Service to Be Sent Abroad For Hints of All Kinds Useful to Americans. The Work Made Possible by Miss Helen Gould.

"It's a big scheme for national advertising—not commercial, mind you, but national," said Dr. William H. Tolman, a reporter of the New York Commercial Advertiser, speaking of the tour he is to take through Europe this summer for the American Institute For Social Service. The Institute has collaborating members in all parts of Europe, and it has been its desire for a long time to send some one abroad to visit the distant members of the flock, to study conditions in the large continental cities as well as those of Great Britain, and to get accurate information as to what these people are doing by way of social service. As Dr. Tolman expressed it, "we want to get ideas from them and put the good ones into practice in this country." At present there is no way for travelers interested in social economic activities in Europe, in municipal functions, in public or private charities, to know what is to be found of interest in each city except through fugitive articles, half forgotten and not preserved, or through inquiry on the spot. Every picture and statue of note, every old castle or medieval church, is carefully noted in guidebooks, with information how and where to see it and why it should be seen. But the great movements for social betterment, the institutions which show the trend of human progress and the industries, occupations and education of the people have no Baedeker.

But Miss Helen M. Gould has at last made this expedition possible, and on May 20 Dr. Tolman, director of the institute; Mrs. Tolman and Joseph Morrow, an expert photographer and maker of lantern slides, will start on their tour of inspection. The director will personally gather all the material desired by the Institute in Great Britain, taking the photographs himself where he cannot find them ready made. These photographs will form a complete series, illustrating the most notable and typical achievements in social betterment in each line and in each particular city.

In Ireland, for instance, the studies will be planned by Horace Plunkett, president of the department of agricultural and technical instruction for Ireland.

Dr. Tolman added: "Throughout Great Britain there will be made a comparative study of the English system of municipal activity—the parks, playgrounds, model tenements, baths, schools and care of the poor. In England different cities have done particular things particularly well. In London there is the great public bath system. Liverpool has docks which are world famous and the most complete system of public baths outside of London. She, too, has a system of loaning window gardens to any one who applies for them, and we shall get pictures of some of those tenement house window gardens. They have done some splendid work in improved housing in Liverpool. England can teach us how she manages her great technical training schools, where artisans may learn the latest applications of science to plumbing or textiles or any other branch of manual industry.

"Every country and almost every city has some special feature which the social economists of America can study with profit. For instance, in Brussels one finds the street signs carried to a high point of artistic beauty. The lampposts and the telegraph poles are ornamental. In some cases a city owns its own billboards and makes them things of beauty as well as of profit. We shall get pictures of those lampposts and billboards, and any one seeking relief from American horrors in that line in the future can come to the institute and see how they do it in Brussels and other cities.

"The municipal activities of Paris, without any disrespect, have been on the spectacular order. She has devoted herself not only to the solution of economic problems, but also to making herself the show city of the world, thereby bringing many annual millions into the pockets of her tradesmen. We want to know how she has done it. We ought to know, too, just how she trains her children to make those wonderful artisans who bring all the women of the world to shop in Paris. Some of the best work in improved housing has been done in Paris—for instance, Jules Siegfried, former minister of commerce, is the head of a housing society for providing better homes for the people, which has started fifty-two similar societies all over France.

"A valuable part of the trip will be the establishing of personal relations with the leaders of social economy in the capital cities of Europe, so that they may realize the scope of the institute and see the opportunities which it offers for the interpretation of the higher social and industrial life of the old world. All this mass of material the institute will have at its disposal, so that the student of social conditions or social betterment in any line can come here and find copious information and photographs on that subject, tabulated and indexed, ready to put his finger on. Lectures and slides will also be prepared, to be loaned at a small fee to societies or individuals."

The average depreciation of the thirteen cable stocks because of March's advance is 2 per cent.



A writer in Popular Mechanics gives some reasons for answering in the affirmative the question, "Does gold grow?" Says he:

"It has been found that gold nuggets under favorable conditions actually increase in size. Gold is known to have grown on nine timbers which have long been immersed in mine water. In the California State Mining Bureau museum there is a specimen of a piece of jointed cap and post taken from the Comstock, where it had been under water for years, in which gold has formed in the joints and pores of the wood. Gold is constantly being formed in rocks and veins and placers. Just what it is that the baby gold formation feeds on to effect its growth is not known. If it were, a new and wonderfully lucrative industry might be born and all other kinds of farming save the growing of gold might temporarily be abandoned. The formation and growth are due to mechanical and chemical action. As in the case of the animal or vegetable, existing gold has existed in some other state before assuming its present form. Waters which percolate through the earth's crust are said to contain substances from which gold is formed. Thus gold, like the animal and vegetable, must have water in order to thrive. The gold in the water is deposited when it meets the proper precipitant. The precipitant may be an earth current of electricity, some vegetable growth or chemical in the rocks."

Little Gold Mining in Brazil.

H. W. Furness reports from Bahia that gold occurs in various places throughout the district and is chiefly found as alluvial gold along rivers, but occurs sometimes in quartz. No gold is being mined at present. Copper is said to occur in paying quantities in various parts of the district, but no mines have ever been worked, although an English company has recently acquired a large tract of land and will soon begin operations. There are no silver mines in the section.

Mining in Colombia.

From Colombia Consul O. Malmros reports that manganese and gold are the only minerals produced in the district. Of the former the principal mines are at Nombro de Dios, about forty miles east of Colon, the deepest workings being 250 feet below the surface. The annual ore production when undisturbed by revolutions is 10,000 tons, and the total production thus far in the whole district is 60,000 tons. The gold operations have been tentative thus far, but have promised good results.

New Way to Color Silk.

To displace the dyer and cause the silkworm to color silk naturally in any desired shade is the object of a set of most interesting experiments which form the subject of a special report to the state department from United States Consul Atwell at Roubaix, France. He says that two French scientists actually have succeeded in producing bright red cocoons by feeding the silkworms with leaves washed over with red. Orange and blue shades also have been produced. The experiments are being continued.



A writer in the Philadelphia Press recently gave some good advice regarding the hygiene of housekeeping. In regard to the cellar he said:

"Every cellar should be well ventilated by windows, perfectly dry, and the floor should be cemented, as this is much better and healthier than ordinary earth or even bricks. The walls must be kept clean. They should be whitewashed from time to time. Be very sure before this is attempted that they are thoroughly clean and that the accumulation of coal dust is brushed away."

The importance of cleanliness in the kitchen was emphasized. Concerning living and bedrooms he had this to say:

"It is well to remember that it is a bad thing to scatter dust with a duster. Pictures and ornaments must be wiped clean with a damp cloth. There is a good deal to be said about the children's nursery. It should of course be sunny and bright and well ventilated. Do not allow gas burning in the children's sleeping room after they retire. I think it is better if it can be done to allow each child to have a separate bed. Mattresses and pillows should each day be well exposed to the sun and air, and if there is any odor about pillows they should be opened and the feathers steamed."

To Disinfect in Sickness.

Dr. Eli Grimes of the state board of health of Iowa directs:

"Everything that goes out of a sick-room should be disinfected before it goes. This applies to the doctor and nurse as well as the soiled linen. Kill the flies. Before disinfecting make the room as nearly airtight as possible. Don't attempt to disinfect books. Burn them. Don't trust sulphur gas or formaldehyde gas to penetrate heavy fabrics. Every carpet, rug and bedquilt should be sprinkled with a 4 per cent formaldehyde solution and tightly packed away for twenty-four hours. They will then be disinfected. Treat wearing apparel the same way. Sprinkle the walls, floors and suspended sheets with 40 per cent formaldehyde, using one-half pound for every thousand cubic feet of room space. Close the door for a day, and it is disinfected. Formaldehyde is better than sulphur. Disinfection should be done thoroughly or it is useless. Disinfection is to save life."